



Western Lakes District

News from The United Methodist Church

WLD Office (937) 739-4445 Email: westernlakes@wocumc.org

WLD Important Information



Jots From Jim...

Recently I had the opportunity to stop by the Rockford UMC in Mercer County. Pastor Bill Halter is doing a great job leading the congregation which finds themselves considering building a new sanctuary in the near future. As I was given a tour of their existing building I noticed a nicely quilted banner that highlighted the letters “Be the good” in a phrase that read “Believe there is good in the world.” (see photo)

I still believe there is good in the world, and also that the world is a good place. Perfect? Absolutely not. But the Scriptures, not me, declared that the world was created by God and it was good.

We can focus on the numerous things we have all done to corrupt the good. Confession is good for the soul. However, there are countless examples of God’s people finding ways to “Be the good.”

It would be fascinating to count how many people find food assistance throughout our 13 counties of United Methodist congregations. How many elderly are visited by clergy and laity throughout our district? How many cups of coffee have been shared around conversations offering hope and guidance to those struggling in life? How many children have learned the story of Jesus because of countless Sunday School teachers who humbly and quietly serve the Lord week after week after week.

I’m inspired by the “good” I see as I travel around the district. I am motivated to find my own way to “be the good” in my role as superintendent. I remind you of the opportunity you have as a person of faith to “be the good” in your circles of influence. Together, we can make a world of difference.

Jim

Western Lakes District Staff

Rev. Jim Wilson II - District Superintendent

Cortney Reed - Office Administrator

Mary Sullivan - Regional Missional Specialist

Our office is located at:

32 Wesley Blvd.

Worthington, OH 43085



"Finding Our Way," to be held Sunday, August 20 - Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

This retreat is sponsored by the Fellowships from East and West Ohio Conferences, Michigan Conferences of the United Methodist Church and by Lakeside Chautauqua Religious Life Department. Enjoy workshops/discussions on topics focusing on the specific interests and challenges facing Associate Members and Local Pastors. The Rev. Dr. James Harnish, Pastor of the United Methodist Church, Longwood, Florida and author of "Finding Your Bearings: How Words That Guided Jesus Through Crisis Can Guide Us," will be speaking during Faith for Living Hour each morning.

Deadline to register is Thursday, August 10, 2023. Registration fee of \$80 includes a three-day Chautauqua Pass and Auto Pass per registration for one person, plus participation in all events scheduled during the retreat. Lunch and dinner are included Monday and Tuesday for Associate Members and Local Pastors. Additional meal plans can be purchased for \$80 per person. Hotel accommodations are not included.

[Learn more and register here](#)

Church and Society Now Accepting Applications for 2023 grant funding cycle. See instructions below to apply online.

The General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) awards grants to United Methodist congregations and groups related to The United Methodist Church through the Ethnic Local Church, Human Relations Day, and Peace with Justice programs.

To apply for grants, applicants must complete forms on the GBCS online system. Only complete online applications with all required documents submitted by 5:00 p.m. EST, July 24, 2023 will be considered for funding.

Church and Society provides grant awards in three categories:

1. Ethnic Local Church Grants focus on the self-identified needs of ethnic local churches and persons as they address one or more chronic social issues or concerns.
2. Human Relations Day Grants support advocacy and community engagement aimed at uplifting the right of all God's children to realize their potential in right relationship with one another.
3. Peace with Justice Grants support programs and projects that witness to God's demands for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world.

To learn about award grantees from the 2022 Grant Cycle [click here](#).

[Click here to apply online](#) Questions? Contact us by email: grants@umcjustice.org

Virtual ERT Recertification Class Set for July 29

On Saturday, July 29, from 9am-1pm, West Ohio will hold a virtual ERT recertification training using ZOOM. The four-hour course will be taught by West Ohio ERT trainers and is approved by UMCOR. Registrants must complete a background check and submit a photo prior to the training in order to participate. The class is only for West Ohio and East Ohio ERT's who have already completed the 8-hour basic course and need to recertify. Cost of the training is \$20.

Click here (<https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/event/virtual-ert-recertification-class-3>) for more information or to register. Questions? Email mgrace@wocumc.org.

Let us remember in prayer those grieving the loss of their loved one, and remember in thanksgiving the life and ministry of:

Carl Louis Wiley, age 92, of Grove City passed away peacefully on July 3, 2023 with his loving wife of 72 years holding his hand.

Born June 9, 1931, in Belpre, Ohio to Perry & Gladys Wiley. He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Ralph and Charles Wiley, as well as his sons-in-laws Roy Bailey and Mike Lazirko. He is survived by his wife Anita, as well as his daughters Carolyn Lazirko and Sharon Bailey; 5 grandchildren, Chris Lazirko (Miranda), Sarah Lazirko (Mike), Stephanie, Matt Evans (Kristie) and Aaron Bailey (Abby); 10 great grandchildren, Scott, Emily, Brock, Maya, Malia, Katie, Madison, Fallon, Foster, Henry; 1 great, great granddaughter, Kenzlee, as well as many extended family members and many, many friends.

After answering the call to ministry Carl served the West Ohio Conference and the congregations of: Constitution Charge, Belpre 1953; Baltimore 1954; Miami Chapel Dayton 1960; Minerva Park Columbus 1963; Grove City (CS) 1974; Sidney First (DS) 1986; Minerva Park (CN) 1994; Reynoldsburg (CS) 2006

He earned his doctorate degree from United Theological Seminary in counseling. He was the first person at United Theological Seminary to receive a doctorate degree.

After retirement, he served as Counselor-in-Residence at the Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church and Executive Director of the Association in Family Care until November 2014. Upon his retirement, the office for AFC was named The Wiley Counseling Center.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Purple Door Christian Childcare Center c/o Grove City United Methodist Church 2684 Columbus St Grove City, Ohio 43123. Arrangements with THE SPENCE-MILLER FUNERAL HOME 2697 Columbus Street Grove City, Ohio.

View the entire obituary at <https://www.spencemillerfuneralhome.com/obituary/dr-carl-wiley>

Events

Lay Staff Retreats Scheduled

An exciting opportunity is coming to a town near you! West Ohio Conference Lay staff members – both paid and volunteer – are invited to a day to *Sit, Soak, and Shine*.

This day of retreat is sure to refresh our local staff members. Below is the schedule of dates and locations of this event.

- July 25 – Athens Central UMC
- July 26 - Chillicothe Trinity UMC
- July 27 - Xenia Faith UMC
- August 1 – Bowling Green Trinity UMC
- **August 2 – Bellefontaine First UMC [Register Here](#)**
- August 3 – Maize Manor UMC- Columbus

For more information, please contact Julie Carter at jcarter@wocumc.org.



Date of Festival of Sharing: Friday/Saturday, September 29-30, 2023

The annual Festival of Sharing will be collecting kits the month of September. For more information on the several kinds of kits that you and your church can pack, please go to the [FOS website](#). There you will find the list of different kits needed and the packaging instructions for those kits. The kits should be dropped off at one of the locations below between September 18 and September 22, 2023



Drop Off Sites:

Defiance St. Paul's UMC, 400 Wayne Ave., Defiance 419-782-3751, Mon - Fri 8:30am to 4:30pm (Please call ahead)

Findlay Journey at Christ, 225 W. Bigelow Ave, Findlay, 419-422-6662, Mon - Fri 9:00am - noon, (Please call ahead)

Spencerville Trinity, 119 N. Main St., Spencerville, 419-647-4451, Mon - Fri, 9:00am - noon (Please call ahead)

NWP District Office, 910 E. Third St. Ottawa, 800-589-7828, Mon - Wed, 9:00am - 3:00pm (Please call ahead to make drop off arrangements)

Van Wert First UMC, 113 W. Central Ave., Van Wert 419-238-0631, Mon - Thu, 8:30am - 1:30pm & Friday 8:30am - noon (Please call ahead)

Dates for the kits to be dropped off to the locations above will be: September 18 - September 22 or what works best for your location, but these dates will be communicated in the newsletters - always best to call ahead first to be sure and use the above list details.



Registration Now Open for Summer and Fall Foundation Events

The UM Foundation of West Ohio has two upcoming events that are now open for registration.

Saving Grace Clergy Edition is an 8-week self-study course with a weekly online cohort. This course is for clergy only, who may sign up here: <https://www.westohioumc.org/civcrm/event/info?reset=1&id=2039>. Registration is free and those who complete the course will receive \$100.

Anyone interested in learning more about the **Saving Grace** curriculum can check out this resource for more information: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/august-23-2022-saving-grace-can-change-your-church>

Generosity Summit 2023

The Foundation invites West Ohio clergy, church leaders, and lay persons to attend the inaugural **Generosity Summit**, September 11-12, at Deer Creek State Park. The one-and-a-half-day conference features expert speakers from around the connection on the topics of stewardship, clergy finance, planned giving, and much more. Sponsors of the Summit include Wespath and Horizons Stewardship.

Registration is online with a fee of \$100 per person which includes all meals. More information on topics and speakers can be found at <https://umfwestohio.org/generosity-summit-2023/>.

Deadlines Approaching for Discounted Generosity Summit Housing

West Ohio clergy and laity interested in attending the Generosity Summit on September 11-12 at Deer Creek State Park *and who wish to get a discounted room or cabin* need to make their accommodation reservations before the room block closes on July 28. Reservations for the block can only be made by **CALLING** Deer Creek at 740-869-2020 by July 28. Rooms and some cabins will be available after this date but at full rates. Please note that registration to attend the Summit is required separately and costs \$100 including all meals. Register to attend the Generosity Summit [here](#).



#BeUMC

Proud to Be #BeUMC

As Christians, we are people of God who are called to follow Jesus in making the world a better place. As United Methodists, we embrace our Wesleyan heritage and live into the mission to #BeUMC and become the church our communities need us to be.

The #BeUMC campaign is rooted in these key messaging themes:

- Disciple Making
- Belonging and Inclusion
- Influence, Connection and Impact
- Experience of God through The UMC

Stay tuned to NewsNET, westohioumc.org and our social media channels as fellow West Ohio clergy and laity share why they are United Methodists.

[Click here for #BeUMC Resources](#)



Ask The UMC Series Available

Ask The UMC offers a series of questions and answers to help clear up some common misperceptions or misinformation around disaffiliation.

[Ask The UMC Series: Is The United Methodist Church really...?](#)

2023-2024 Appointments

The list of pastoral appointments beginning July 1, 2023 can be accessed [clicking here](#).

Please refer back to these lists as they are updated frequently.

Western Lakes District | 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, OH 43085

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